

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084722

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CLERIDES RESIGNS

REUTER REPORTS THAT GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR CLERIDES HAS RESIGNED AFTER ADMITTING HE MADE A SECRET AGREEMENT WITH DENKTASH ON THE TIMING OF SUBMISSION OF NEGOTIATING POSITIONS.

--EMBASSY CYPRUS SAYS THE REVELATION THAT CLERIDES AGREED TO ALLOW DENKTASH TO STUDY THE GREEK CYPRIOT PROPOSALS BEFORE SUBMITTING HIS OWN IS A MAJOR SENSATION IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

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--CLERIDES WILL APPARENTLY NOT RESIGN HIS POST AS
SPEAKER OF THE CYPRIOT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
(UNCLASSIFIED) NICOSIA 896, 4/7.)

2. PANAMA: CABINET CHANGES

EMBASSY PANAMA REPORTS THAT THE RECENT GOP MINISTERIAL
CHANGES DO NOT SIGNAL ABRUPT ALTERATIONS IN PANAMA'S DOMES-

TIC OR FOREIGN POLICIES OR IN TORRIJOS' ATTITUDE TOWARD THE
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. THE EMBASSY THINKS THEY DO INDICATE:

--A CONTINUATION OF THE SHIFT TOWARD MODERATION IN
DOMESTIC POLICIES;

--AN ATTEMPT TO GIVE ADMINISTRATIVE VIGOR AND EFFI-
CIENCY TO MINISTRIES WHICH HAVE LACKED EFFECTIVE LEAD-
ERSHIP; AND

--AN IMPLICIT REAFFIRMATION OF TORRIJOS' DESIRE TO COM-
PLETE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW CANAL TREATY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD REPORTEDLY RECOG-
NIZES THAT COMPROMISES WILL BE NECESSARY TO GET THE US TO
AGREE TO A TREATY. HIS EXPERIENCE AND SKILL WILL MAKE HIM
A FORMIDABLE ADVOCATE OF PANAMA'S POSITION IN THE NEGOTIA-
TIONS, HOWEVER, AND WE HAVE RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT
BOYD WILL BE INCLINED TO TAKE A HARD LINE ON THE MILITARY
BASE ISSUE. (CONFIDENTIAL) PANAMA 2417, 4/7.)

3. KHUKRIT TO RESIGN AS SAP HEAD

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT HAS TOLD THE PRESS HE WILL RESIGN AS
THE LEADER OF THE SOCIAL ACTION PARTY (SAP) TO ALLOW AN
ELECTED SAP MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT TO HEAD THE PARTY. KHUKRIT
SAID HE WAS UNDECIDED ABOUT WHAT HE WOULD DO AFTER LEAVING
OFFICE BUT IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT LEAVE POLITICAL LIFE
COMPLETELY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE PRESENT MOOD IN BANGKOK IS ONE OF
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QUIET SATISFACTION NOW THAT THE SHOCK OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY
VICTORY HAS WORN OFF. (UNCLASSIFIED) BANGKOK 8852, 4/7.)
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